

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
/093 W

-----084722 110943Z /16

O 110915Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 803
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE POUCH
USUN NEW YORK 1597
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH
URUTALB/AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI 8981

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7165

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, CG
SUBJECT: MOBUTU DECLARES AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF: A) KINSHASA 6689; B) 75 KINSHASA 5981

1. ZAIRIAN RADIO ANNOUNCED JULY 10 THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD INFORMED THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF HIS INTENTION TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S REQUEST (REF A) THAT THE AMNESTY RECENTLY GRANTED TO ZAIRIAN REFUGEES BE BROADENED TO ENCOMPASS THOSE IMPRISONED IN ZAIRE FOR THREATENING INTERNAL SECURITY. A LAW SPECIFYING THE EXACT SCOPE OF THE INTERNAL AMNESTY IS EXPECTED TO BE PROMULGATED SHORTLY BY MOBUTU. SUBSEQUENT PRESS
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COMMENTARY HAS STATED THAT "CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS" ASIDE, ZAIRE WILL NO LONGER HAVE ANY POLITICAL PRISONERS ONCE THE LAW IS APPLIED.

2. THE RADIO MENTIONED FIVE NAMES "AMONG THOSE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY:" FORMER FORMIN NGUZA KARL I BOND, PALUKU, LOANGO (LWANGO), KANYERE AND MUTAKA WA DILOMBA. PALUKA, LOANGO, AND KANYERE (REF B) WERE CONVICTED AS CIVILIAN

CONSPIRATORS IN THE 1975 "COUP MONTE ET MANQUE." MUTAKA WAS
ACTIVE IN KATANGAN SECESSIONIST POLITICS AND EARNED A REPUTATION
AS A CORRUPT, BUMBLING HACK. OUR FIELDS DO NOT INDICATE
WHY OR WHEN HE WAS IMPRISONED.

3. COMMENT: IN ANNOUNCING THE IMMINENT RELEASE OF MOST POLITICAL
PRISONERS, MOBUTU HAS TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION. WHILE IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, INTERNAL AMNESTY
COULD ALSO ENCOURAGE ZAIRIAN REFUGEES IN ANGOLA TO BEGIN RETURNING
TO ZAIRE, THEREBY IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR A REDUCTION IN TENSIONS
ALONG SHABA'S BORDER WITH ANGOLA.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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